

From: Karen L. Flaten
1603 S. Quillan St.
Kennewick, Wa 99338
509 366 1438

January 15, 2009

RECEIVED

JAN 21 2009

To: Department of Risk Management
Ravalli County Court House
205 Bedford St.
Hamilton, MT 59840

George H. Corn
Ravalli County Attorney
205 Bedford St. Suite C
Hamilton, MT 59840

Ravalli County Commissioners

Subject: Damage Claim 2005 Hyundai Stolen on August 15, 2008

Dear Sirs,

I am writing regarding my car that was stolen on August 15, 2008 and returned to me on January 13, 2009 a period of 152 days. The car was impounded by your office during the week of August 11, 2008 but not released until January 9, 2009. I have been without the usage of the car for this many days at considerable hardship. I have tried numerous times to contact your office with no to limited response at considerable telephone expense and lost time at work plus the loss of use of my car.

On August 18, 2008, I was contacted by the Ravalli County Attorney's office to advise me that my car had been recovered during the arrest on drug charges of the person who stole my car. On August 25, 2008, I called the County Attorney's office to ask for release and return of my car. Since then, I have made numerous telephone calls to try to speak with Deputy County Attorney William Fulbright, the attorney assigned to prosecute the case against Mr. Kyle Campbell. To this date, I have never received the courtesy of having Mr. Fulbright take or return my phone calls. It was not until the County Attorney's office was contacted by my attorney, Mark P. Amberg, in December that I finally received a call from the County Attorney's office to advise me that my car was being released. It still took almost a month afterwards for my car to be returned to me.

My car was not involved in the criminal case prosecuted by the Ravalli County Attorney's office and was not evidence in the case against Mr. Campbell. My car should have been released to me as soon as it was recovered and has been wrongfully withheld by Ravalli County. Therefore, I am submitting a claim for damages against Ravalli County for its negligence in wrongfully withholding my car from me and depriving me of the use of my car for almost five months.

I am also submitting this as a formal complaint regarding the improper handling of this matter by the County Attorney's office and the lack of professionalism and courtesy demonstrated by the County Attorney's office in failing to take or respond to my numerous telephone calls and requests for information. I was a victim in the crime committed by Mr. Campbell and was simply trying to recover my stolen car.

I
Emailed
George asking
him up
he or insur.
or BCC should
respond.
Glenda

I will be seeking damages against Ravalli County for the wrongful withholding and loss of use of my car. My damages will include the reasonable rental value of a replacement vehicle and other expenses incurred by me to attempt to obtain the release of my car.

Upon receipt of this letter, please call me to discuss a resolution of this matter. If this matter cannot be resolved to my satisfaction, I will seek recovery of my damages through legal action. If you need further information or if there is anything further that needs to be submitted, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen L. Flaten".

Karen L. Flaten

Cc: Mark P. Amberg, Attorney
Harrang Long Gary Rudnick P.C.
360 East 10th ave.
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairperson, Ravalli County Commissioner
215 S. 4th St.. Suite A
Hamilton, MO 59846

Mike McGrath,, Attorney General, State of Montana
Capitol Building 6th & Montana
Helena, Montana 59601